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Customer No.: 31561  
Application No.: 10/708,178  
Docket No.: 10929-US-PA

**In the drawings:**

Please replace the drawing Fig. 5A with the following drawing sheet.

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**REMARKS**

**Responsive to the "Notice to Applicants"**

The Examiner contended in the "Notice to Applicants" that the use of the term "a control signal module" is not appropriate to define a signal.

Responsive thereto, Applicants have amended claim 8, Fig. 5A, and the disclosure, paragraph 0032, all of which contain the term as indicated by the Examiner as inappropriate. As such, Applicants submit that the specified parts of the claimed invention are now in allowable forms.

**Discussion of the "Drawings"**

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Responsive thereto, Applicants have canceled claims 4-7, features of which are believed not shown in the drawings. As such, Applicant submit that the 37 CFR 1.83(a) objection is moot.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 3, and 8-10 are objected to because of typo or grammatical informalities.

Responsive thereto, Applicants have amended claims 3, and 8-10, as instructed by

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the Examiner. As such, Applicants submit that claims 3, and 8-10 are now in allowable forms.

**Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 112**

Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Responsive thereto, Applicants have canceled claims 4-7 and submit that the 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph rejection is moot.

**Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 102**

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by applicants' admitted prior art, hereinafter AAPA.

In response to the rejections thereto, Applicants have canceled claims 1-2, which render the rejection set forth thereto moot. In addition, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections addressed to claims 3 for at least the reasons set forth below. Support to the amendments can be found in the drawings, specifically Fig. 5B. As such, Applicants submit that claims 3 is novel and unobvious over AAPA, or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

With respect to claim 3, as currently amended, similarly recites "*wherein ... the first relay level is higher than the first original level and lower than the first target level, and the second relay level is lower than the second original level and higher than the*

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*second target level*" (Emphasis added).

As admitted and interpreted by the Examiner, "wherein the first relay level (VDD) is the first target level (VDD) ... , and the second relay level (GND) is the second original level (GND), Applicants submit that the first relay level is equal to, rather than lower than the first target level, and the second relay level is equal to, rather than lower than the second original level.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 3 is novel and unobvious over AAPA or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (US 6,392,628 B1). Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 2 in response to the aforementioned rejections. As a result, the aforementioned rejections are moot.

#### **Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103**

Claim 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA, as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Mackawa et al. (US 5,646,642).

Applicants submit that claim 8 depend on allowable independent claim 3, and thus should also be allowable.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

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Claims 9-12 are indicated as allowable but are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Responsive thereto, Applicants submit that claims 9-12 remain unchanged from their original allowable forms, and now they depend on allowable independent claim 3, and thus they should be allowable.

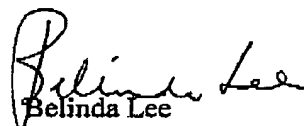
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For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 3 and 8-12 are in proper condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: Feb. 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

  
Belinda Lee

Registration No.: 46,863

Jianq Chyun Intellectual Property Office  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor-1, No. 100  
Roosevelt Road, Section 2  
Taipei, 100  
Taiwan  
Tel: 011-886-2-2369-2800  
Fax: 011-886-2-2369-7233  
Email: [belinda@jicigroup.com.tw](mailto:belinda@jicigroup.com.tw)  
[Usa@jicigroup.com.tw](mailto:Usa@jicigroup.com.tw)